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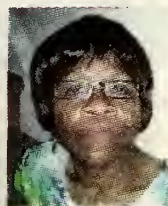
GBSC THEME

"PREACHING...TEACHING...REACHING"

Matthew 28:19-20

The Baptist Informer's SPOTLIGHT

SEPTEMBER IS SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH



By Elaine Whitworth,
MSW, MPA, Director
Duke Sickle Cell Center,
Durham, NC



How much do the members of your congregation know about sickle cell disease? Do they know what causes this disease? Or why it affects primarily the African American community in the United States and minorities around the world? Do they know, for example, that one out of every ten members of your church carry the trait? And do they know what the sickle cell trait is or why it matters?

A new program

These are just some of the questions being answered for Triangle area churches by Bridges Pointe Foundation and the Duke Sickle Cell Center in its new sickle cell awareness program – The Sickle Cell Mission of Caring. We want to provide your congregation with this valuable live saving health information with your help.

With the support of the N.C. Sickle

(Continued on page 3)

127th Annual Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of N.C.



Thousands of delegates from across the state attended the 127th Annual Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina at the Raleigh Convention Center in July. This year's convention highlighted "A Call To

Spiritual Integrity (with an emphasis on love)." See convention stories and additional photographs inside the Baptist Informer. (Photo taken by Just for You Magazine).

(Continued on Pages 6-7)



Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II
Chairman of the GBSC
General Board

From the Desk of the Vice President-at-large

Dr. Nilous M. Avery, II, D. Min.

To my brothers and sisters in the General Baptist "tie" that binds our hearts in Christian love: "Praise be to

the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV).

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Letters to
the Editor

Our 144th Year

Voice of 500,000 North Carolina Baptists

1867 - 2011

"UP ON THE HOUSETOP" Mark 2 : 1-12

Jesus' early Galilean ministry was well underway, and he had returned home to Capernaum. This could have been the house of Simon and Andrew, Mark 1:29, or it could have been a house to which Jesus and most of his family had moved from Nazareth (John 2:12).

Jesus' return to Capernaum was not reported on the six o'clock news that evening, but the ever present grapevine quickly spread the word that He was back. His dramatic words and deeds already has made Him quite a public figure. People descended on the house where He was like

modern shoppers, crowding for a bargain sale. The house, which must have been small by our standards, was jammed full of people. Mark recorded that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door (v.2).

Suddenly we are made aware of an unexpected event that became part of that day in Jesus' life. It is interesting to note how something very significant often broke into Jesus' schedule, a happening that had not been planned or programmed.. He always responded to these situations with patience, grace, and help. People who tend to be busy and overscheduled most of the time should remember the example of Jesus at this point.

Without a previously scheduled appointment to see Jesus, four men arrived at the home in Capernaum.

They brought with them a paralyzed friend. They found the house sold out like a Duke UNC basketball finals, and even standing room space was gone. The four men and their stretcher case seemed to have had no way to get to see Jesus.

Some people in despair see difficult circumstances as an insurmountable obstacle. Other people consider the same situation a daring challenge. The men came up with a clever idea. Mark recorded that they went up on the housetop and removed the roof above Jesus (v.4). The four men lowering their sick friend into the midst of the crowded room where Jesus was teaching must have been a quite dramatic interruption. The man himself probably had thought at times that someday soon he would be lowered into a hole in the ground, a grave. Instead of that, he was being lowered through a hole in a roof to meet Jesus Christ and experience a new dimension of life. Mark noted that Jesus saw their faith (v.5). The

four friends had faith that Jesus could help their paralyzed partner. The sick man himself showed a strong faith in allowing himself to be so carried and lowered through the roof, probably with some discomfort to meet Jesus. With great human drama focused at that very spot, Jesus said, "My son, your sins are forgiven".

Thus, with the given mindset of most of the people in the crowded room that day including perhaps the paralytic himself, he could not be cured until his sins were forgiven. Jesus met the challenge of that moment in a way that everyone there especially the scribes could understand. Jesus cured the man. Since cured he must have been forgiven. The passage also reveals something about Jesus' attitude toward sinners, He was willing to forgive sin and even more important had the authority to do so. GREETINGS AND BLESSINGS TO ALL. Until next month.



Dr. Ricky L. Banks,
GBSC Second Vice
President

The Usher's Annual Session

The Reverend Dr. Cureton Johnson delivered the sermon, "Outsiders & Latecomers" during the recent Ushers' Annual Session. His message was taken from I Corinthians 11:19-22, 33 and he encouraged ushers to "be careful how you treat latecomers." The Bible says, Come unto me, so we are to extend to everyone the kingdom of God because everybody is



Mr. Charles Dunn
GBSC Ushers
Auxiliary

somebody in God's House. We should always extend the fellowship of love and grace."

Additionally, Dean Marvin Clowney presented an adult workshop on the topic, "Make Yourself Useful: A Call To Action." The reference scripture was taken from Nehemiah 1:1-4. Clowney reminded ushers that "God saved us and raised us up to be difference-makers. When Nehemiah heard the news, he sat down, fasted, and prayed. We are to meet people and turn their lives around.

Before we pray for anyone we need to have a passion for something. The fires of passion flare up in us but they don't burn very long! We need to be passionate about what we do. Have you noticed how many people just don't want to get involved with anything? We can't afford to allow ourselves to become indifferent. This is the season of discontent. We should become discontent with life as we see it and go into action to do something about it. You are in the right position all that's needed is the courage to accept what God sends and step forward to fulfill his plan."

Other speakers included Assistant Dean Rodney

McCormick who spoke on the "Committed Usher." Coordinator Nancy High spoke on ushers' proper attire (women in white, men in black or navy suits, no cut out shoes, stud earrings, state badge goes on the collar).

Mr. Felton Davis held a Youth Workshop on "Ushers Shaped for Service." "Your head is to praise and worship God. Your eyes are to be observant. Your mouth is to greet worshipper and speak God's Word. Your heart is to spread God's love. Your hands are to serve and your feet are to lead. We are to be examples for Christ."

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Rev. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

E.O. Johnson, Interim Managing Editor

Rev. Anthonette Wright, Advertising Editor

Cell Disease Consortium, Bridges and the Sickle Cell Center will also assist church groups statewide to increase their sickle cell awareness. We will connect you to programs in your locality.

Recently, the President of the National Baptist Church stated his intentions to promote sickle cell disease awareness through health ministries in their member organizations.

The President of the United States, Barack Obama, has put sickle cell disease on the national health agenda. As a result, the White House Roundtable on sickle cell disease recently announced that all federal agencies will increase their involvement and

that the Faith-based Initiative will work with the National Baptist Church to raise awareness! This step marks an important achievement in the effort to improve the lives of persons living with sickle cell disease across our country.

Some history

Forty years ago, the Black Legislative Caucus in our state created the North Carolina Sickle Cell Syndrome Program to serve all one hundred counties. This act earned us the distinction of being a leader in the nation in addressing needs of our sickle cell patients. Federal agencies, including the CDC, have praised this organizational structure.

The sudden deaths of young athletes

You have read and heard about the sudden deaths of young African American athletes in high school and college. We now know that sickle cell trait, long thought to be harmless, has surfaced as one of the contributing factors in these tragic events.

Raising public awareness of sickle cell disease is essential if we are to prevent these incidents from occurring with such frequency in the future. Because sickle cell patients are living longer and better lives, there is a growing population with growing needs and growing problems to address.

What can you do? Churches can

double the numbers of persons who are made aware of their risk for sickle cell disease and trait. Education of your church membership can improve the chances that persons with the disease and/or trait can gain access to much needed medical and social resources.

We invite you, as Pastors and church leaders to jumpstart your "Sickle Cell Mission of Caring." With the support of the Duke Sickle Cell Center and Bridges Pointe Foundation you can access educational workshops and training opportunities, as well as referrals to our local educators statewide. Experts, speakers, and free educational workshops will be available in the near future.

Live With Dignity: Words From Lott Carey Foreign Missions

Dear Lott Carey Partners:

The images and stories coming out of the East Africa country of Somalia are heart-breaking. In one sense, it reminds me of the heartache so many Somalis faced after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Back then, the Lott Carey family responded with incredible generosity that enabled us to redevelop with a



fishing community to purchase a fleet of fiberglass fishing boats with motors, traps to harvest lobster, and the related equipment needed for a whole community to regain their livelihood and live with dignity. We also funded generators to refrigerate the catches and a training module to ensure the capacity to repair the boats and create alternative income resources for households.

Additionally we provided funding for the only hospital in an expansive area treating internally displaced persons and provide psychological care for people

traumatized by the loss of life, loved ones, and livelihoods.

Somalia is calling again.

The images that are coming from Somali today are more intense than several years ago. The government instability, rebel fighting, and drought have combined to create a major food and health crisis. Over the past two years, Somalia has experienced escalating violence and deteriorating security, which has led to massive population displacements and the worst humanitarian crisis in the country since 1991-92. Drought conditions in the Horn of Africa region coupled with conflict in Somalia, has affected over 13 million people in the region.

Lott Carey will answer.

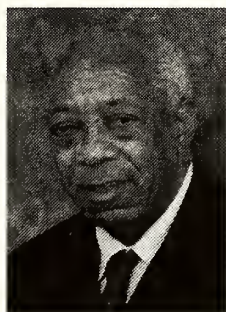
We will be working with our partner in the region with whom we worked so well after the tsunami - the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) is a regional ecumenical organization in East Africa affiliated with the All Africa Council of Churches (AACC).

Contributions can be made to Lott Carey with a designation for "Somalia Relief."

Rev. David Emmanuel Goatley, Ph.D.
Lott Carey
220 Eye Street, NE, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20002

LAYMEN OUTLOOK SERIES 2010 - 2014 CONTINUES...

Mr. Richmond Turner
GBSC Laymen's League



In our previous discussion concerning our State Laymen's objective: Deploying Men with Christ: A Call for Radical Discipleship, we defined deployment and discussed our method. In this discussion we want to look into the theology behind this approach- The Call for Radical Discipleship.

The Church's mandate is clearly laid out for us in the gospels and especially in Matthew 28: 19-20. The operative instruction is for us (the church) to go "make- disciples." Certainly, as we observe the state of many of our congregations, we have mostly notably lost our

directions.

Why the call for Radical Discipleship? Radical means: Disposed to make extreme changes in existing practices. In order to be obedient to the Call of Christ to discipleship, we, in my opinion, need to make extreme changes in our existing practices in our churches. I have heard, that a good definition for insanity is to keep doing things the same old way and expecting different results. It appears that the

process of discipleship is lacking or misunderstood in most of our churches. It has been stated in some sources; that the problem in our churches today is that we are trying to make disciples with un-disciple disciples.

A word of caution has to be mentioned here about the word "radical." Radical has various shades of meaning and can sometimes lead to fanaticism. Radical is derived from the Latin word

"radix" meaning "root" referring to the need for perpetual re-orientation towards the root truth of Christian discipleship. Radical discipleship calls Christians to follow the will of God through personal action and example.

John Stott states: "To be radical is to be deep-rooted and whole-hearted." He further states that: "Our common way of avoiding radical discipleship is to be selective: Choosing those areas in which commitment suits us and staying away from those areas in which it will be costly. But because Jesus is Lord, we have no right to pick and choose the areas in which we will submit to His authority."

Some areas we need to explore in which we can become more committed followers of Jesus is: (1) Non-conformity. We need to refuse to conform to the areas of: Pluralism, ethical relativism, Materialism, and Narcissism (love of self). (2) Christ-likeness. One reason our evangelistic efforts fail is that we don't look like Christ.

God's purpose is to make us like Christ, and God's way is to fill us with His Holy Spirit.

There are other areas to explore, but these are just the tip of the ice-berg when we look into The Call for Radical Discipleship.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer states that: "Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our church."

In short, we want the blessings but not the responsibility. Radical Discipleship is the fight for costly grace.

Next discussion will place emphasis The laymen's Sub-theme: Spiritual men in Solidarity with the Savior.

What a wonderful thought to know with assurance that God is merciful. God blesses us so through us, others will be blessed. The writer in Ecclesiastes noted that some things do change. There is a season for "every activity under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1b). Change occurs frequently: from being born to dying ... from planting to uprooting ... from killing to healing ... from tearing down to building up ... from crying to laughing ... from loving to hating ... and so on. Some things do change.

For many who have seen a number of "getting ups and lying downs," dramatic changes have taken place. Many conveniences we take for granted today were non-existent at the beginning of the 20th century (the year 1900). Change is constant. Some things

do change! A time traveler from the early 1900's would not recognize the world as it exists today.

And yet, some things do not change. When a woman came to Jesus with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it on His head, Jesus' disciples became angry and complained (Matthew 26). They concluded the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus said the poor would always be around.

Some things do not change! We need food because we get hungry. We need comforting because we experience grief. We need guidance because we get confused. We need compassion and companionship because we get lonely. We need forgiveness and a Savior because we all sin. We need hope

because at some point, we all die.

Some things do not change! God's grace, mercy, and love do not change. In Jesus, God's image is not stained and God's power is not weak. God is immutable. In darkness, God is light. In chaos, God is truth. In weakness, God is strength. In death, God is eternal life! Some things do change. God does not! As disciples of Jesus the Christ who strive daily to give thanks and live thankfully, our methods may change, but the goal is still the same: "Preaching, Reaching, and Teaching." (Matthew 28:18-20)

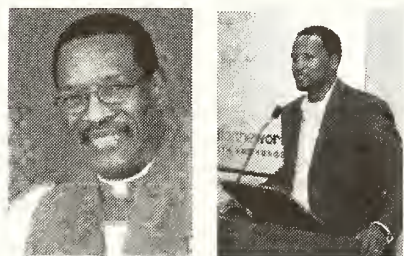
Are we helpers or hindrances to the cause of Jesus the Christ? Our convention equips and empowers us to be helpers. Some things do not change: Our General Baptist State Convention needs your financial support and prayers, NOW! I

believe the people of God in the General Baptist family will rise up to meet every challenge, every lion's den, every Red Sea, every flaming furnace, every wall, every stronghold that attempts to thwart the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. **PLEASE SEND YOUR SUPPORT TO STATE HEAD-QUARTERS TODAY!**

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV).

OUR MISSION: Addressing Global Hunger

By Rev. Derrick Boykin and
Bishop Charles E. Blake



Raise your hand if you've been affected by the economic crisis in recent years.

Now raise your hand if you've been affected by humanitarian crises in Africa in recent years.

We can't see your hands, but we're guessing there were fewer of them raised for our second question. But that shouldn't be. As challenging as economic conditions are in the United States, the human toll caused by hunger, poverty, lack of access to basic necessities, and political instability in other parts of the world is nearly insurmountable—and the solutions to many of

these challenges lie within our own federal budget.

Congress and the administration have been locked in heated debate the last few months over whether to raise the debt ceiling and how to balance the budget. Some leaders have proposed cuts to safety net and foreign aid programs that would directly impact hungry and poor people abroad. But U.S. foreign aid accounts for less than 1 percent of the budget; balancing the federal budget will take more than cuts to programs like these. And these cuts will cost us more in the long run, undermining the progress that's been made in reducing HIV/AIDS-related deaths, maternal and child deaths, and severe malnutrition.

Nearly 12 million people in the Horn of Africa are now facing a humanitarian emergency stemming from the worst drought in 60 years—the most serious food insecurity crisis in the world today. High food prices and political instability have made it difficult and dangerous for aid workers to meet the needs of those who are suffering. The most immediate needs include improving food

access and addressing health and nutrition issues. Emergency aid is vital right now, but we must also think beyond the current crisis. It is much more cost-effective to invest in building agricultural and economic systems that prevent calamities and are sustainable in the long run than it is to respond to food-shortage crises.

What we share with our neighbors in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, parts of Uganda, and Djibouti is the impact of rising food prices and the global financial crisis. These factors have increased hunger and malnutrition around the world. But where we differ is that, instead of losing homes and jobs and struggling to put food on the table, people in East Africa—mothers, children, uncles, grandfathers—are dying as they trek to safer areas.

As terrible as this crisis is, it could have been much worse without programs such as Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program. These types of country-led programs help small farmers and poor communities diversify their crops, broaden their income sources, create local markets, better manage their water resources, and increase

the nutritional content of their families' diets. These programs were models for Feed the Future, the U.S. government's global program to promote sustainable agriculture, food security, and nutrition around the world. This approach to global hunger emphasizes the need to invest a few dollars per person each year to help people become more

Shaw University Divinity School will present its 28th Annual Women's Conference:

After the Storm: Identity, Freedom, Joy
from 7-9:30 p.m. on Friday, September
23 and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on
Saturday, Sept. 24 in the auditorium of
the Shaw University Institute for
Health, Social and Community
Research, located on the corner of
Wilmington and E. South St.

Featured during the two-day event will
be worship, praise and devotion with
Dr. Lonieta Cornwall; a plenary with
the Reverend Barbara Falana; work-
shops by Ms. Patricia Still, RN, the
Reverend Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan and
the Reverend Julie Bell, Esq.;
and the Sarah Leonard Baker Tupper
Awards Reception

(honoring women's leadership).
Advanced registration is \$20 for non-
students; \$25 for non-students on-site
and \$15 for a one-day session. Shaw
University students are admitted free.

On-site registration will be
\$30 per person for non-students.

For more information contact the
Shaw University Divinity School
at (919) 546-8569 or via electronic
mail at mlewis@shawu.edu.

(Continued from page 4)

food secure and resilient to disasters, rather than investing hundreds per person to deliver emergency relief that only covers three to four months.

Unfortunately U.S. funding for these types of programs—including emergency food aid—is at risk. The Bible tells us to uplift—not demoralize—the “least of these.” We find

it incredulous that some of our nation’s leaders who hail from the “Bible Belt” are approaching the federal budget without any regard for how their decisions impact vulnerable people. We urge our lawmakers to focus on protecting food aid in current and future budget debates.

The United States must continue its global leadership in ending

hunger and poverty, paying greater attention to long-term investments in women and children and in country-led initiatives that lay foundations for sustainable agriculture and livelihood strategies. Otherwise, we compromise our own strategic interests and default on our international commitments.

For more on the crisis, visit <http://www.bread.org/hunger/global/eastern-africa-drought/> or <http://www.saveafricaschildren.org>

al/eastern-africa-drought/ or <http://www.saveafricaschildren.org>

Rev. Derrick Boykin serves as associate for African American leadership outreach at Bread for the World. Bishop Charles E. Blake, founder and CEO of Save Africa’s Children, is the Presiding Bishop of the 6.5 million member Church of God in Christ.

Foster Care: The Search for Parents in Churches

By Norman Jameson

THOMASVILLE, N.C. (ABP) -- Hundreds of thousands of families are needed to provide foster care for nearly a half-million children and teenagers who for their own safety cannot continue to live at home.

Some of those families are found in Baptist churches, and those who recruit and train them want to find more.

For many decades, when at-risk children needed to be removed from home for their protection, they were welcomed into group homes and residential campuses established -- often by Baptists -- to care for children orphaned by wars and disease. Government policies, social welfare changes and budget woes have combined to make such residential services a placement of last resort.

So, those century-old institutions are combing their supporting congregations for families they can enlist and train to provide foster care in their homes.

Becky Alley, director of marketing and communications for the Children’s Home Society of North Carolina, said they look “for people who are concerned about the welfare of children, who want to be a safe haven in a time of crisis, who will have them prepared and ready to return to their birth family when their birth family is safe and functioning again.”

Foster parenting “is a calling” according to Andrea Walker, intake

coordinator for Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina.

“If someone is in it just for a financial stipend, forget it,” Walker said. “We’re selective. We want to get good quality folks who are going to be in for the long haul.”

Keith Henry, executive vice president for programs and services at Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, said he’s seen newspaper ads that offer “a little extra money” as an attraction to become foster care parents.

While the stipend for foster parenting is about \$600 monthly, depending on a child’s age and behavior level, Henry said his agency “wants to attract families who see this is a ministry, not as a way to earn extra money. We feel going through the churches provides us a built-in filter.”

Henry values foster care as a part of his institution’s continuum of services, “but we don’t feel it’s the answer to every child.”

Foster parenting often leads to adoption, and about one-fourth of the children in the foster care system are eligible and waiting to be adopted.

The median age of children in foster care is 9.7 years old, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Most are in

care for about a year, but 17 percent are in care for three years or more.

Stacey Darbee, head of the North Carolina Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, also is a foster and adoptive parent.

She and her husband, Osvaldo Franco, built their retirement home and were preparing for an empty nest when they felt clearly and suddenly called to start foster parenting.

They have adopted two sets of siblings, although the younger siblings were not yet born when they adopted the older ones. Their mothers continued their irresponsible behavior, and Darbee knew they

to serving people with mental health and behavioral problems.

There is a distinct and growing need for parents “who can handle children with more severe behavioral patterns,” Griffie said.

“With mental health reform, we’ve had children with very intense needs coming into our program.”

Henry said “such children are being pushed into family foster care because of cost,” citing the \$4,000 monthly cost of a typical residential program, and the approximately \$600 cost of foster care.

Plus, county departments of social services often can tap federal dollars for certain types of services.

“You don’t have to be a hero or someone special to be a foster parent or to adopt,” Darbee said.

“You can be a plain-old person and just have enough room in your heart to do it.”

She encourages individuals considering foster care to look deeply inside themselves and to make sure their family and support structures outside the family are in place and supportive.

“You’re going to need those people,” she said. “You can’t do it as an island. ...You need that village around you.”

Despite the difficulties, she said, “I would not trade my life right now for anything.”

-- Norman Jameson is reporting and coordinating special projects for ABP on an interim basis. He is former editor of the North Carolina Biblical Recorder.



127th

Annual Session

Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention of North Carolina

2011 CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

*Submitted by
Leola Coston, chairperson, Evelyn Snead and Faye Dunbar
Publicity/Public Relations Committee*

More than 2,000 people attended the 127th Annual Session of the Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention held at the Raleigh Convention Center, July 24-28, 2011 after many years of being hosted by the Benton Convention in Winston-Salem. The Convention was hosted by The Christian Faith Baptist Church where the host Pastor is the Rev. Dr. David C. Forbes, Sr.

In order to be spiritually invigorated and mentally stimulated, delegates were encouraged to participate in the early morning prayer service and mission study classes throughout the week. The official opening began with the Leadership processional and a call to order by president, Dr. Audrey P. Battle who presided over the morning session.

Reports were given by the executive board, committee-on-committees, Christian family life enrichment ministries, Christian

education, ministers' wives fellowship and missions committee. Pastors, ministers, state, circle, union auxiliary presidents, district chairpersons, new members and visitors were recognized.

COMMUNION SERVICE

The Celebration of the Lord's Supper was held at the Host Church, Christian Faith Baptist Church. The Rev. Ronald Avery, Pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church, served as worship leader.

The invocation was prayed by Rev. Dr. Matthew Rouse, Jr. Pastor of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Raeford. Music for the Celebration was rendered by Christian Faith Baptist Church choir and musicians. The scriptures were read by the Rev. Howard Snipes, Associate in Ministry at Christian Faith Baptist Church and Rev. Joseph L. Battle, Pastor of Quankey Missionary Baptist Church of Roanoke Rapids. The Rev. Dr. David C. Forbes, Sr., Host Pastor, delivered the Celebration message entitled "After 127 Years It's

Time for a Mission Exam". What a timely word! We were chal-

lenged in our response to the missionary call to action. The Scripture for the message was Matt. 25:31-46. Following the message, Holy Communion was observed with the Blessing of Bread by the Rev. Dr. Rudolph Tripp, Pastor of Manson Baptist Church and the Blessing of the Wine by the Rev. Clarence LeMay, Pastor of Sandy Fork Missionary Baptist Church. The closed with a rededication prayer and the parting hymn of victory "Go."

BANQUET

The Annual Johnnie Blunt McLester Pre-Convention Fellowship Banquet was held Monday, July 25, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in Raleigh, Convention Center in Raleigh, NC. Dr. Audrey Battle, President, presided over the Banquet. Two young adults, Mr. Marcus Bass and Ms Celeste Gore,

were again blessed by youth Jeremiah Edmonds of Halifax County who boldly sang two beautiful selections.

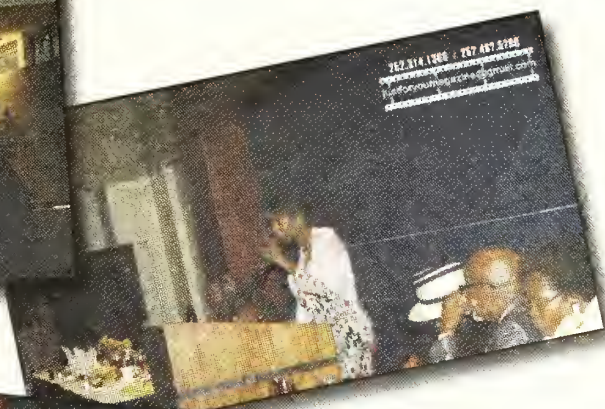
This year the Woman's Convention invited twenty (20) homeless women to the Banquet. These women are temporarily housed at the Healing Place. One of the women, Joan Farris, gave her testimony that she was a recovering alcoholic and The Healing Place had saved her life along with other supporting Christians. Her life, along with the other women, had been changed because somebody cared enough to take a chance on them, to pick them up and allow space for transformation. All of the women received gift bags prepared by the Missions in Action Committee under the leadership of Mrs. Elender LeMay.

Dr. Vernita A. Howze, President of the Woman's Auxiliary of



127th Annual Session of the WBH & F Theme: "Preaching...Teaching...Reaching For Spiritual Integrity With Emphasis C

Matthew 28:19-20, John 15:13, John 4:8
Host Church: Christian Faith Baptist Church, Raleigh
Host Pastor: Reverend Dr. David Forbes, Sr.
July 24 - 28, 2007



the Baptist Missionary & Educational Convention of Michigan, delivered a dynamic message on the Convention theme. Dr. Lowze was timely, relevant, clear and concise. She spoke to us as a voice of one "crying in the wilderness." She stated that "we have spiritual integrity because of Jesus. Love is full of strength and power and love is an action word. We are to show love to all. We could do more than talk a love message. Time is out for playing church. Only in Christ."

Immediately following the banquet, the first Conference concert in many years was held under the direction of Dr. Roland Carter, a distinguished and nationally recognized composer, conductor, educator, and musician. The concert consisted of choirs from Christian Faith Baptist Church, Martin Street Baptist Church and members of other churches from across the State. Choirs directors were the Rev. Ronzell Bell and the Rev. James L. Forbes, Jr. Special guest soloists were Minister Rhonda Williams and Mr. Corey Leak. We were particularly blessed by the Mime Ministry, BROTHER'S PEPPER, of the Martin Street Baptist Church who performed "God Blocked It" under the di-

rection of Mr. Wiley Edwards. This ministry spoke clearly to our young people.

The highlight of concert was the closing performance "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by Johnson and arranged by Roland Carter, accompanied by the dancers from Christian Faith Baptist Church. The arrangement was magnificent. The concert was wonderful and to see the groups come together for this time was inspiring. We are grateful to Dr. Carter, Rev. Bell and Rev. Forbes and other musicians for a job well done.

TUESDAY

Third Vice President Ellender LeMay presided and read the Psalm 100. Mrs. Carolyn Edwards prayed. Dr. David C. Forbes, Host pastor of Christian Faith Baptist Church presented the participants of the Welcome program. Christian Faith Baptist Church Dance Ministry directed by the Rev. Paula Crepsac presented two renditions. Wake County Commissioner James West and City Councilman Eugene Weeks greeted the congregation on behalf of Wake County and the City of Raleigh. Dr. Irma McLaurin, former President of Shaw University, brought greet-

ings on behalf of Shaw University and to thank all who helped in the aftermath of the tornado in April. Ms. Angela Williams, Executive Director of Central Children's Home brought a few children from the Home. She greeted the congregation and stated that situations are much improved at the Home. Mrs. Ida Dunston, Chair of the Executive Board responded to the greeting. The Rev. Robert Sessoms preached on Luke 10:30-33 on the subject of "The Other Side of the Jericho Road" Rev Sessoms stated that: "It is crowded on the other side. There is an easy side and a pleasant side. When Jesus bore our sins it was not pleasant. There is a least expensive side. There is a cost to relieve suffering. There is a "too good side". The side where some people feel they are too good to pick up trash, sweep, wash dishes to name a few of the issues. He stated that God wants us on the side of missions and mission.

The Reverend Dr. Earl Johnson, pastor of Martin Street Missionary Baptist Church was introduced by First Lady Ophelia Johnson. Dr. Johnson fervently spoke from Matthew 3:3 on the subject, Serving God With Integrity eloquently relating to the theme "A Call to Spiritual In-

tegrity" (CSI). Just as John the Baptist was a voice crying in the wilderness, he admonished the congregation to "be a voice and speak out about Christ. There is an urgency to speak out. Someone needs to hear the word of God."

PRESIDENT'S DAY

The Rev. Linda Inman, First Vice-President, presided over the morning session. The session opened with scripture and prayer. We were particularly blessed to have NC Governor Beverly Purdue welcome guests to the city. She asked for Baptist women's help to improve things in the state, especially when it comes to the fundamental right of every child to get a good education. Additionally, the Rev. Dr. Howard W. Parker, Jr., President of GBSC, noted we all have a job to do, not just in the church, but in the community. "We're in the hands of God and He will make a way."

Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer GBSC, gave greetings and an update on J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. The project proposed will be a multipurpose facility with a projected cost of \$515,000. (Need cash of \$450,000 in the bank be-

(Continued on next page)

Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer GBSC, gave greetings and an update on J.J. Johnson Baptist Assembly. The project proposed will be a multipurpose facility with a projected cost of \$515,000. (Need cash of \$450,000 in the bank before starting project. Have cash now in the bank of \$427,000). The Woman's Auxiliary pledged \$100,000. It has contributed \$67,000. Once the Woman's Auxiliary pledge is complete, the project can move forward.

The Rev. Dr. Linda W. Bryan, Woman's Auxiliary Executive Secretary-Treasurer, gave the annual financial report. She reviewed income and disbursements between September 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011. Because giving is down, she stated they are working diligently to keep cost down and are operating within the budget. President Audrey Battle, delivered an annual address, "A Call to Spiritual Integrity" with an emphasis on love, (CSI). Her message was one of encouragement and hope. She acknowledged we're on a mission and we must trust God. He is in control. We must learn to be a servant with a servant's heart. It's time for us to be role models for our children. There are many social issues in our society. She asked us to pray with her that the Convention will help somebody. Our goal is to enter into the joys of the Lord.

Wednesday evening was Foreign Missions Night and the Young Adult Department presented a parade of flags of countries supported by foreign mission partner, Lott Carey. The Rev. Dr. John

Mendez, Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., delivered the sermon. First Lady Sarah Mendez introduced her husband. Dr. Mendez's subject was Two Princesses in Egypt, from I Kings 11:21-22 and Hebrews 11:24-25. He began his sermon by emphasizing that "there are temptations and traps waiting out there for us, as black people. We need to be concerned about the genocide of our African American boys and girls. The good news is our young princes and princesses are surviving. God has opened up a way for us to escape the Holocaust. Moses and Hadad were in Egypt, but Egypt was not in them. We should not forget from whence we came and what God has done for us." His message was spiritual, informative, educational and encouraging.

THURSDAY

The final day of the convention on Thursday was devoted to a business session. Officers were installed by the Rev. Ricky Blanks, Pastor of the St. Stephens Missionary Baptist Church in Elizabeth City, NC. The closing sermon was given by Rev. Dr. Nilous Avery, Jr. who was introduced by his father, Dr. Nilous Avery, Sr. The subject of his message was "God Chooses Who He Uses" from I Samuel 16:12. He instructed us to anticipate our anointing, accept our appointment and appreciate our assignment. Dr. Avery emphasized that David was not a likely candidate for king. He said, "God recognizes when we are damaged, but He can still use us to serve His purpose. When we are in the Master's arms, we can face any obstacles. He will

give us the victory. Show God some love every time we get a chance."

DEACON'S WIVES' PROGRAM

Deaconess Barbara Wood presided. Mrs. Mable Kelly, Co-Chair, read the Scripture and Mrs. Vivian Samuels prayed. Mrs. Laura Bryant contributed a Reading. Rev. Valissa Moore sang "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" Deaconess Jackie Williams spoke on the theme "A Call to Spiritual Integrity with Emphasis on Love." Sister Barbara Kelly was the accompanist.

MINISTER'S WIVES FELLOWSHIP

Shelby Foy, Co-Chair presided. Dr. Pamela Holder gave the Call to Worship and the congregation sang "Love lifted Me." Mrs. Carolyn Edward read Responsive Reading entitled "Love." Mrs. Zelda Jackson prayed. Evangelist Annie Hewett introduced the speaker who was Minister Magdalene Leach. She spoke on "Love" with emphasis on Ephesians 4:1-4.

YOUNG ADULT DEPARTMENT

Wednesday Afternoon the Young Adult Department presented its program. Ms. Tilola Mitchell, Third Vice president presided. Dr. Battle, President and Dr. Mary Byers Hall, Director of Young Adults greeted the congregation. The session opened with Praise and Worship led by Min. John J. Kirkpatrick. Mrs. Brittney Raines read I Cor. 13. Miss Kamillah LeMay prayed. The President's Address was delivered by First Vice President Jewelyn

Dunn because the President Mangum was not able to attend the Wednesday session. Vice President Dunn discussed the Convention Theme "A Call To Spiritual Integrity With Emphasis on Love" She stressed the fact that we are to do the right thing when no one is looking.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The Youth Department's Program consisted of a report by the Youth Supervisor, Jewel Dunn, who reported on the Have-A Heart Project Competition. Also, the marches for the Youth supervisors, and youth officers were held. Tuesday Afternoon the Shaw Contest was held. The Youth did mission work during their time at the Convention. The youth fourteen and above worked at the Men's Homeless Shelter on Wilmington Street. The Children Prayer Walked around the Sheraton and the Marriot praying for the Convention and the Objectives. Key chains were made for the Ronald McDonald House. During the study classes, the youth studied: bullying. Before the concert by the Youth, some of the winners of the Have-a-Heart contest and the Shaw Contest presented their talent. The winners of the Monetary and Talent were announced. After the Contestants presented, Jazzmine Small, Youth President addressed the congregation on the theme. Three Scholarships were awarded to the following youth: Wayne Banks of High Point, Crystal Johnson of Durham and Clara King of Johnston County.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Woman's Baptist Home and Foreign Missionary Convention will present various events in coming weeks. They include:

- Family Missions Conference from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 24 at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, 2213 Enon Road in Oxford, N.C., where the Rev. Ray A. Allsberry is pastor.
- Institute Instructor's Clinic from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 8 at the GBSC Headquarters, 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, N.C.
- Youth Evangelism Conference from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5 at Reidsville High School, 1901 South Park Dr., Reidsville, N.C.

MINISTRY BRIEFS



HOST A STUDENT

Pacific Intercultural Exchange (P.I.E.) is looking for families to host international students from one semester to one year.

Host families are eligible to claim a monthly charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

The students, aged 15-18, are from countries such as Germany, the Former Soviet Union, Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil,

Hungary, Korea, Mexico and China. They are English-speaking, have their own money, carry accident and health insurance and want to share their cultural experiences with their new American families. P.I.E. is designated by the U.S. Department of State. For more information, please call 1-866-546-1402.

2011 ECUMENICAL AWARD

North Carolina Council of Churches Executive Director George Reed recently received the 2011 Luke Mowbray Ecumenical Award by the American Baptist Churches USA. The national honor was established in 1975 to recognize their commitment to achieve Christian unity either through sustained performance or special achievement. Reed is the 19th Mowbray recipient.

Under Reed's leadership, the NC

Council of Churches has expanded its work and its staff, adding programs focused on immigration and emphasizing the role that faith communities play as centers for improving congregant health. More than 1.5 million North Carolinians are members of congregations under the Council's umbrella. For more information, contact George Reed at 919-828-6501.

MMBB CENTENNIAL

The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board (MMBB) recently



marked the beginning of its centen-

nial celebration by launching initiatives to improve service, extend support to those hit hard by the economic downturn, and offer retirement benefits to church workers without them.

Dialing for Dollars

The Reverend Selma S. Hunter of the GBSC Headquarters staff in Raleigh participated in fund-raising for Behind Bars for Jerry's Kids and the Muscular

Dystrophy Association of Wake County. On August 18, a Wake County deputy sheriff escorted her to the "lock-up" quarters of the Capital Room where she raised \$620 in contributions for the organization.

Yancy To Return As Shaw Interim President

(RALEIGH, NC) – Dorothy Cowser Yancy has been named Interim President – the second time she will serve in that capacity – for Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. Gary made the announcement at a press conference followed by a staff and faculty meeting where the announcement was greeted with applause.

"The Shaw family is excited about the prospect of having Dr. Yancy come back to lead us through the SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) re-accreditation and beyond," said Gary. "There is jubilation in the air and excitement all

over campus. We've had a great faculty and staff meeting and we all look forward to an outstanding 2011-2012 academic year.

"We want to thank our family and all our local friends who have helped since the tornado," he continued. "We are up and running and starting classes on schedule."

Yancy replaces Dr. Irma McClaurin who resigned last Tuesday. According to Willie Gary, Yancy has agreed to serve as Interim President for "up to two years." During that time, he says the University will conduct a search for a permanent replacement.

Yancy held the post of interim president from June 2009 until September 2010, when McClaurin was named president. When named interim president in 2009,

Yancy became the first woman to hold that title at the HBCU.

Yancy served 14 years as the president of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, NC. While there, she ran two successful capital campaigns, and raised over \$145 million for the University. She also increased the institution's endowment from \$14 million to \$53 million.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and social science from Johnson C. Smith University, a Master of Arts degree in history from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Ph.D. in political science from Atlanta University (Georgia), with further study at the University of Singapore, Hampton University, Northeastern Illinois University

(Chicago), Northwestern University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Tynisha Benjamin, a member of Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, Fayetteville, North Carolina, was the senior winner in the State Oratorical Contest, 2010. Tynisha is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Benjamin, Fayetteville, NC and a rising freshman at Fayetteville State University in Fayetteville, N.C.

Shaw Received Nearly \$50,000 in Donations

Two presentations of checks – one for \$24,700 for scholarships, the other for \$25,000 for the Disaster Recovery efforts were recently presented to Shaw University in Raleigh. Mack Sowell Jr. made the scholarship donation of \$24,700 and West Raleigh Rotary Club made a Disaster Recovery donation of \$25,000.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why Prison Ministry Is a Must



If you are like most people, you know very little about the prisons and jails of North Carolina and America. This ignorance is the greatest barrier to seeing and meeting the desperate emotional and spiritual needs that exist among the millions of African American males affected each year by the criminal justice system. Don't be hasty and say, "They deserve it, or It's too unpleasant or I don't want to think about it," please remember that we are not speaking of inanimate objects, but of human beings, young black men who love and cry and fear and hope. They too have been made in the image of God. They, too, can come into a new and vital relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. God really loves them. We the Laymen's League can be the ones to bring that news to the men in prisons and jails and show the men what true caring, love, and friendship really are. Let's continue to work for our Lord. The men need our help. Amen

Rev. Artie F Kilgore, Laymen's League Prison Ministry Coordinator

EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: As part of our mission to provide credible and compelling information about matters of faith, the Baptist Informer actively seeks a diversity of viewpoints in its columns, commentaries and other opinion-based content. Opinions expressed in these articles are not intended to represent GBSC-NC editorial policy and do not necessarily reflect the views of its staff, boards or supporters.



Jasmin Sessoms recently won the title of Miss Black USA Talented Teen 2011 in Washington, D.C. She competed against contestants from 11 states, including New York, Virginia and Texas. She will receive a \$2,500 scholarship and tuition to the 2012 Summer Acting Training Program at the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts. Jasmin is a member of St. Matthew Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.

The Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Association recently (06/30/2011) elected **Pastor James L. Smith as Moderator** for 2011-2015 tenure. Pastor Smith has served as Senior Pastor at Palmer Grove Baptist Church for more than 31 years

1st Vice Dante Murphy
2nd Vice Rev. M. L. Littlejohn
3rd Vice Rev. Chad Woods
4th Vice Rev. Roger Fuller

"1st PRYING GLASS IS
PROGRESSIVE CHURCH"



Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church

Assistant Pastor

Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church of Greenville, NC seeks a dynamic full-time Assistant Pastor. This position will oversee all aspects of the Church's youth ministry including teaching, program development, counseling, volunteer development, etc. This position will also assist the Pastor with pastoral care such as hospital and home visitations to members, assist with worship services especially on occasions when the Pastor is absent, and participate in the regular functions and services of the Church as needed. The right person is one who has a strong passion and vision for youth ministry and is gifted in leadership, teaching, and preaching.

The successful candidate will be an ordained minister committed to Christian living and possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, strong communication/organizational/administration skills, and the demonstrated ability to lead a vibrant youth program that will develop young people into devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Prior experience working with faith-based youth programs preferred.

Expected starting salary: \$30,000-\$35,000 annually, plus benefits. To apply, submit your resume and cover letter by 8/31/11 to Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, 1095 Allen Road, Greenville, NC 27834 (ATTN: Personnel Committee).

Pastoral Vacancy

First Baptist Missionary Church of Powellville, Incorporated Located in Bertie County (Northeastern North Carolina)

Awaits God's Chosen Leader

For a small flock with a potential for growth

Requirements

- Visionary and trained in setting goals for the continued growth of the church
- Licensed and ordained by the Missionary Baptist Denomination; believes/abides by the Missionary Baptist Doctrines, policies, and Church Covenant, have at least five years of pastoral experience
- Strong administrative skills
- Strong communication skills (ability to deal with people with tact and discretion)
- Willing to become affiliate of the West Roanoke Missionary Baptist Association, Inc.
- Bachelor's Degree in Theology from an accredited college or university
- Visits the sick and shut-in (hospitalized, homes, and nursing homes)
- Willing to support all church program including Sunday School, Bible Study, Prayer Meeting, etc.
- Effective in working with all groups in the church and expected to teach, preach and counsel in word and deed to all age groups in the church
- Willing to submit to a criminal check and credit report
- Implement policies fairly, consistently, respect individuals needs and abilities

The ending date to receive applications is December 31, 2011.

Please forward all correspondence to:

Search Committee
First Baptist Missionary Church of Powellville, Incorporated
c/o Deacon James L. Peele
Post Office Box 433
Powellville, North Carolina 27967

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Baldwin Branch Missionary Baptist Church

Pastoral Vacancy Announcement

Baldwin Branch Missionary Baptist Church, 4047 NC 242 Highway, Elizabethtown NC is currently accepting resumes/employment packages for the position of Pastor. Baldwin Branch is seeking a spirit led pastor to serve the church as God's Shepherd. Pastor is responsible to the church for providing spiritual and administrative leadership of the church, conduct pastoral care to improve the general membership growth, meet the needs of the congregation, and families in the church and community.

Refer to www.baldwinbranchmbcnc.org the bottom of the home page to view a complete job description and contact information.

East Carolina University

Tomorrow starts here.



Are you an African American male? Have you had prostate cancer surgery?

The Center for Health Disparities Research at East Carolina University is conducting a research study entitled Prostate Cancer Recovery Enhancement for African American Men and Their Intimate Partners (PROCARE).

In collaboration with

 Duke University Medical Center

Benefits of Participating

- Your participation in this study can help us better understand how to meet the needs of African American prostate cancer survivors, who often experience poorer outcomes compared to other groups.
- You will receive coping-skills training for management of symptoms related to prostate cancer treatment, or you will receive prostate cancer education about symptoms and medical treatment options.
- Compensation
You will receive up to \$150 for your participation.

Do we need to drive to weekly sessions?

No. You and your partner can participate in the study without leaving home. Coping-skills training or prostate cancer education is delivered over the telephone. Speakerphones will be provided at no charge to each couple.

For more information, please contact:

Lisa C. Campbell, PhD
1-888-442-8202 (toll free)
PROCARE@ecu.edu

10-165

**Fifteenth Annual
Walter Cade Jr.
Southeast
Regional
Workshop
Sept. 23-25
High Point, N.C.**

The 15th Annual Walter Cade Jr. Workshop, presented by the National Baptist Laymen, will be held Sept. 23-25 at the Best Western Hotel in High Point, N.C.

A workshop package will include two nights lodging, registration and five "Southern" meals for \$160 per person for a double occupancy and \$225 for singles. Additional meals will be available for children at half-price.



For details about the workshop and/or the Souvenir Journal, contact Michael E. Bodie, housing chairman at (336) 886-3397 or James Simon, advertising chairman at (336) 884-0169.

Early registrations are encouraged since participants will be coming from various states. Online registrations are available at www.temple-memorial.com or contact Keith Lipscomb, General Chairperson. (klipsc@aol.com).

Subscriptions Available NOW

Monthly subscriptions are available for the BAPTIST INFORMER, an official publication of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. (Voice of 500,000 Baptists)

For details, please call Baptist Headquarters, located at 603 S. Wilmington St., Raleigh, N.C., at (919) 821-7466.

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AND THIS IS HOW WE DO IT!**

The General Baptist State Convention supporting
Shaw University and Shaw University Divinity School,
Central Children's Home of North Carolina,
J. J. Johnson Baptist Assembly,
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missions Convention
and State Missions since 1867.

